THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 7, 1806.

Memoirs of the Moſt Honourable the Marquis Cornwallis.

THIS nobleman was descended from an ancient and illustrious family, who, in the reign of Edward the Third, came over from Ireland, and settled in Suffolk. An ancestor of this family, John Cornwalleys, was a sheriff of London in the year 1377, and knight of the shire in two parliaments of Richard the Second's reign. The lordship of Brome (which gives title to the presumptive heir) came into the family by marriage, about this time. In the reign of Henry VII. William Cornwallis was among those who were certified to be capable of supporting the dignity of knighthood; many gentlemen being knighted in this reign, as has been surmised, merely for the fees which thereby accrued to the crown.

This same person was, in the fifth of the same prince, nominated with others in the county of Suffolk, by act of parliament, to assess a subsidy granted for defraying the expence of the expedition to France, in which Tournay was taken. William was succeeded by his son John, who signalised himself in the expedition commanded by Howard earl of Surrey, the lord high admiral, who, after repulsing the French in an attack on our coast, scoured the channel, and landed at Morlaix, which he carried by assault. As a reward for the gallantry displayed by John Cornwallis on this occasion, he was knighted by Lord Surrey. He was afterwards appointed steward of the household of Prince Edward.

Thomas Cornwallis, his eldest son, was knighted at Westminster in 1548. He greatly distinguished himself by his exertions when the commotion in Norfolk took place, which was headed by Kett, the tanner, bringing forces to the assistance of the marquis of Northampton. At the attack of Norwich,

he bravely entered the town with Lord Sheffield, who was killed; and Sir Thomas himself, being overpowered, was made prisoner, but was shortly after relieved by the arrival of the king's troops. In the last year of King Edward's reign he was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and, with the forces he headed, was very instrumental to the advancement of Queen Mary to the throne. He was then at Framlington-castle in Suffolk. During the whole of the reign of this queen, he continued in great favour, and was particularly active in suppressing Wyatt's rebellion.

He served twice in parliament; once for Gatton, and again for the county of Suffolk. In 1554, he was appointed member of the privy council, and, in 1557, comptroller of the household. He appears to have been a man of great integrity; for, when it was debated in council to send the Princess Elizabeth out of England, and exclude her from the succession, Sir Thomas is said to have been the principal cause of dissuading the queen from so unjust a design.

On the accession of Elizabeth, being a catholic, he was excluded the privy-council, and removed from his place of comptroller of the household; he then retired to his estate in Suffolk. His successor, William, embarked with the earl of Essex for Ireland, and was knighted for his services in that kingdom. His second son, Charles Cornwallis, highly distinguished himself during the reign of James the First, by whom he was knighted, and appointed ambassador to the court of Spain, where he resided several years with great reputation.

In 1610, when the household of Henry prince of Wales was established, Sir Charles Cornwallis was appointed treasurer to his royal highness. An account of the life of this accomplished prince, who died at the early age of eighteen, lamented by all ranks, was written with considerable elegance by Sir Charles, who died in 1630.*

Thomas, who succeeded Sir William, dying unmarried, the estate devolved to his brother Frederic, the first lord. This gentleman, in his youth, was noticed by Charles I. when prince of Wales, and attended him on his love-journey to the infanta of Spain. Shortly after the ascension of Charles, he was created a baronet, by letters patent, dated the 4th of May, 1627. He was returned member for the borough of Eye, in the fifteenth year of Charles I. he was also in the parliament of 1640, in the list of those who were termed Straffordians. He attached himself firmly to the royal cause, and was one of the members who assembled at the parliament held at Oxford in

* Sir William Cornwallis, son of the above, was the author of a small volume of Essays, published in octavo, in 1632.

in 1643. In the civil wars, Sir Frederic was distinguished for his gallantry on many occasions; he followed the fortunes of King Charles II. into exile, and accompanied him on his return. The day after the king's public entry into London (May 29, 1660), Sir Frederic was declared treasurer of his majesty's household, and sworn member of his privy council. He was chosen representative the same year for Ipswich, on the death of Sir Nicholas Bacon. On the 20th of April, 1661, three days previous to the coronation of Charles II. he was created a baron, by the title of Lord Cornwallis, of Eye, in the county of Suffolk, "having (as the preamble sets forth) from his youth, with great fidelity, served King Charles I. in court and camp, for which he suffered the loss of his estate, imprisonment, and exile; and in testimony of the high esteem his majesty had of his merits, he advanced him to the said degree and dignity."

The subject of our memoir was the eldest son of Charles, fifth lord and first earl, and was born on the last day of the year 1738; his mother was Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Lord Viscount Townshend, who died December 1st, 1785. He entered the army very early, for at the age of twenty, he had attained the rank of a captain of a light company in Colonel Craufurd's corps; and promotions, at that period, were much slower than at present. During the seven years war, Lord Cornwallis, then Viscount Brome, accompanied the marquis of Granby to the plains of Germany, in the honourable and confidential capacity of aide-de-camp: here he distinguished himself on many occasions, and acquired that experience and reputation, which misfortune itself could not shake. He very early became a member of the representative body, being elected for the borough of Eye, in the eleventh parliament of Great Britain, for which he sat 'till the death of his father, in June, 1762, removed him to the upper-house. In 1761, he had been promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 12th regiment of foot. In 1765, he was nominated one of the lords of the bed-chamber; and about the same time was honoured with the appointment of aide-de-camp to his present majesty, with the additional rank of colonel of foot. In the senate his conduct was manly and independent; and on many occasions he voted against those measures, which at length precipitated this country into a fatal war. When the memorable bill which deprived the Americans of their rights, by securing the legislative power of Great Britain over the colonies, was introduced into the house of lords, he was one of the five characters who opposed it. On the 25th of March, 1766, he was advanced to be colonel of the 33d regiment of foot. In December of the same year, he became warden and chief justice in eyre of the forests south of Trent. On the 14th of July,

1768, his lordship married Miss Jemima Tulikens, daughter of James Jones, Esq. With this lady he enjoyed the utmost felicity the connubial state can afford, 'till his duty called him to embark with his regiment for America. In the year 1770, he was appointed constable of the tower of London, and lord-lieutenant of the tower hamlets, both of which his father had formerly held. Shortly after his lordship's arrival in America, he was promoted to the rank of major-general, September 29, 1775, and served under Sir William Howe with great activity and credit. In November, 1776, he penetrated into, and took possession of the province of New Jersey. The campaign being ended, General Cornwallis repaired to New York, with a view of returning to England, but hearing accidentally of the unfortunate affair of Trent-town he most gallantly deferred his voyage, and returned to the Jerseys; these he afterwards received orders from Sir William Howe to abandon, and accompany him to the Chesapeak. The great American commander knew too well the imprudence of hazarding a decisive battle: the service was unfortunately of that nature, that there was as little for the soldier to exult at as the philanthropist. His lordship, however, neglected no opportunity of signalising himself. At the passage of the Brandy-wine, he commanded a considerable body of troops, which, after driving the enemy before them, took possession of Philadelphia; this happened on the 24th of September, 1777. From the period of this important acquisition, until 1779, when Lord Cornwallis embarked as a lieutenant-general with Sir Henry Clinton for the siege of Charlestown, nothing occurred of sufficient importance to record. On the surrender of this place, the command of South Carolina, with about two thousand troops, devolved to him. General Gates, who had just captured Burgoyne's army at Saratago, immediately took post at Camden, with about 3600 men. General Cornwallis, far from being daunted at the enemy's superiority in number, immediately marched to encounter them, which he did on the 16th of October. After a smart action, he took a thousand prisoners, seven pieces of cannon, a quantity of baggage, and pursued the enemy for twenty miles.

(To be continued.)

LONGEVITY *of* WOMEN *in* CHINA.

IN the year 1725, the wife of the Emperor Yontchin having distributed her charitable favours to poor women above seventy years of age, it appeared from an exact register kept in the province of Canton alone, that, among those who partook

took of her bounty, there were 98,220 women above seventy years of age, 48,893 above eighty, and 3453 about a hundred years old.

We are the more astonished at this fact, because though the mildness of the climate, the general fertility of the soil, and the simplicity of diet that prevails in China, must contribute a great deal both to population and longevity; yet the absurd dress or rather bandages of female children from their birth, and particularly the violent pressure of their feet to prevent growth, and of course destroy the future power of proper exercise, cannot but be extremely unfavourable to the enjoyment of health and long life.

We therefore think it likely, that the women above mentioned, though described as Chinese, were really of Tartar origin, brought up to the free exercise of their limbs, and unfettered by the shackles of any custom repugnant to nature. The Tartar women, or, as they are called in China, the broad-footed women, are more active, much healthier, and live a great deal longer than the crippled Chinese, who may be strictly said to totter from the cradle to the grave.

And as to the boasted population of China, we strongly suspect the general accounts of it to be erroneous. We are far from questioning Sir George Staunton's veracity; but we may be allowed to suppose that, like many other superficial observers, he formed his judgment of all China by what he saw in the neighbourhood of the largest towns, to which nine-tenths of the people fly for employment, sustenance, and trade. We cannot believe it possible that population should increase in any country, where persons are taxed as well as property; where the cries of murder are heard with indifference; where a husband may with impunity butcher his wife; and where the cruel avarice of some parents and the distresses of others are encouraged by the permission of the law, and by the force of example, to destroy their female children.

Account of the Vegetable Chinese Plant, the Areka.

THE areka, or surrapi of China, is used among the Chinese, by wrapping it in the leaf of the betle, or paung-leaf; a shrub similar to the woodbine, or ivy, of England, which encircles itself round the areka tree; a species of palm, that generally attains the height of thirty or forty feet; perfectly straight; of the circumference of a full grown poplar, with protuberant rings on the bark at equal distances; possessing no branches but at the head, where it spreads itself; and to them is suspended the fruit or nut of the areka, erroneously termed betle-nut, enveloped in an outward coating of numerous

numerous filaments; in size, about an English walnut, but more conical. This husk is not unlike, in its structure, to the rind of a cocoa-nut, but more soft and pliable. I imagine it is either in quantity insufficient, or there is a *succedaneum* in the bark of other trees, which are more profitable in converting it into paper, which the Chinese make from almost every species of cortical vegetable. The properties of the areka are unparalleled, as an extreme beautifier and eminent preserver of the teeth: its strong astringency gives them strength, and is unexceptionably the finest antiscorbutic known. I have seen many Europeans, that have had the most indifferent teeth, and who were frequently troubled with that tantalizing affliction, the tooth-ach, by a short residence in India, where they have constantly accustomed themselves to its use, have permanently been relieved, and the appearance of their teeth improved wonderfully. Even the most offensive breath has been overcome, as it possesses one of the most incomparable odours I have met with either in China, the Moluccas, or the whole peninsula of Indostan. I may, perhaps, be considered too sanguine or partial in my praise of this vegetable; yet I feel confident no one, who is acquainted with it, will correct my statement any ways unfavourable to the description I have given. It is to be regretted, this has not long since been a principal article of importation. So highly and so justly, as this is esteemed in China, yet, in Europe, it is, in fact, scarcely known. It may, perhaps, be considered in this country, extraordinary, since its virtues are so great, when I mentioned it is, notwithstanding, neither cultivated among agriculturists or private gentlemen. In India it is the promiscuous inhabitant of every wood or jungle; and, like many of our most valuable herbs, grows spontaneously in the fields, unheeded or disregarded, but by the herbalist or botanist. The saliva that is produced by chewing this nut, is of the most beautiful red the eye can either witness, or the imagination conceive; and were there a possibility of extracting the dye, its richness would be unexampled, and displace those that are now held in the highest consideration: but the colour of this nut is only imparted in its green state; when it becomes hardened it neither will disclose this valuable property to aqueous, spirituous, or oily menstruums; and no means, which I have as yet been acquainted with, are capable of success. I have heard of its being infused, after levigation in spirits, and acting as a great corroborant of the stomach, and facilitating digestion. As a styptic medicine, it may not be inferior to the best Peruvian bark. It is perfectly tasteless, otherwise than the aromatic effluvia which arises after it is chewed. From the circumstances of the betle growing round the areka tree, we may attribute the cause of the leaf of this vine be-

ing wrapped and chewed together with the areka-nut, as if nature vindicated the propriety of blending them, in order, as it is perfectly known, to correct the predominant bitterness of the betle, by the aromatic flavour of the areka. The anodyne qualities of the former render it a peculiar favourite of the natives; its intoxicating nature procures alleviation to the poor distressed Indian, softens the acuteness of poignant reflection, and delights the imagination with every Utopia of bliss: no wonder, then, that these inoffensive associates of human society, should seek a softener of their cares, which nature has so judiciously and humanely allotted them in the recluses of their country; she has every where provided an asylum for the afflicted, a solace to the oppressed, and the means of comforting and exhilarating human nature under the severest trials. The areka-nut is most frequent, in the provinces of Siam, Molucca, Cambodia, and Cochin China; it is more prolific along the eastern coast of the bay of Bengal, and flourishes in the neighbouring isles of Sumatra, Pulo-Penang, &c.

The East India company purchase the ammonian, a measure of 20,000 arekas, or about 260 pounds weight, for about 2000 fettus, equal to 9s. 6d. English; although individuals pay equivalent to three-pence a pound. The betle is cultivated in most parts of India; and not dissimilar to the growth of hops, the leaf approaching the laurel, and the blossom the pear, it forms a pretty appearance; and the leaf, with the areka, and chuman, a lime produced from calcined shells, furnishes one of the greatest luxuries in the whole eastern empire. It is ranked among the accomplishments; is every where presented as the first offering of friendship, and denoted in every station as the emblem of the highest respect. The soil most adapted for the culture of the betle is a rich loam, or heavy clay, and, like the manchineal of Barbadoes, skirts the coasts of the ocean. It may not be, perhaps, irrelevant at this place to take notice of a circumstance of the manchineal, not less singular than the betle attaching itself to the areka, and forming to each other an equilibrium that corrects the too potent qualities contained in them separately, that might otherwise defeat the end for which they were designed. In every place where the growth of manchineal exists, it is accompanied by a protective plant, that affords a juice which seaches the progress of the poison, and secures the unfortunate person from becoming its victim. In like manner, the rattle-snake root is a safe antidote against the bite of that reptile. The value of the nut, when it has been to be purchased in this country, is from 3s. 6d. to 5s. a pound; and when properly levigated, produces not more than from three to four ounces. The manner of distinguishing their goodness is, being free from holes, or any appearance where grubs have inserted

serted themselves; pale colour; and, when broken, clear, and thickly marbled with red, purple, or dark veins. They will run, in number, from seventy to eighty in the pound avoidupoise. For a more detailed account, I refer my readers to The Encyclopædia, Raynal's Indies, Fenning, Pomet, Grose, &c. If my suggestion, in recommending it as a commodity worthy of enlarged importation, be accepted in the opinion of any India adventurer, I shall feel satisfied in having been the promoter of an article which, from my experience of its qualities, entitles it to every attention of the philosophical and commercial branches of society; and it will procure to me the greatest pleasure, should it prove beneficial in any other manner than that which I have stated.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C—— C—— H——.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER.

THE duke de Sully says in his Memoirs, for the year 1603, when he was appointed by Henry the Great as ambassador to King James, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, that just before he was going to embark at Calais, having with him a retinue of upwards of two hundred gentlemen, or who called themselves such, a person of the name of Servin came and presented his son to him, and begged he would use endeavours to make him a man of some worth and honesty. But he confessed it was what he dared not hope, not through any want of understanding or capacity in the young man, but from his natural inclination to all kinds of vice. The old man, he says, was in the right.

What he told me having excited my curiosity to gain a thorough knowledge of young Servin, I found him to be at once both a wonder and a monster; for I can give no other idea of that assemblage of the most excellent and the most pernicious qualities. Let the reader represent to himself a man of a genius so lively, and an understanding so extensive, as rendered him scarce ignorant of any thing that could be known; of so vast and ready a comprehension, that he immediately made himself master of what he attempted; and of so prodigious a memory, that he never forgot what he had once learned. He possessed all parts of philosophy and the mathematics, particularly fortification and drawing; even in theology he was so well skilled, that he was an excellent preacher whenever he had a mind to exercise that talent; and an able disputant for and against the reformed religion indifferently. He not only understood

derstood Greek, Hebrew, and all the languages which we call learned, but also all the different jargons, or modern dialects; he accented and pronounced them so naturally, and so perfectly imitated the gestures and manners both of the several nations of Europe, and the particular provinces of France, that he might have been taken for a native of all or any of those countries; and this quality he applied to counterfeit all sorts of persons, in which he succeeded wonderfully. He was moreover the best comedian, and the greatest droll that ever appeared; he had a genius for poetry, and had wrote many verses; he played upon almost all instruments, was a perfect master of music, and sung most agreeably and justly. He likewise would say mass; for he was of a disposition to do, as well as to know, all things. His body was perfectly well suited to his mind; he was light, dexterous, and fit for all exercises; he could ride well; and in dancing, wrestling, and leaping, he was admired. There are not any recreative games that he did not know; and he was skilled in almost all mechanic arts. But now for the reverse of the medal: Here it appeared that he was treacherous, cruel, cowardly, deceitful; a liar, a cheat, a drunkard, and a glutton; a sharper in play, immersed in every species of vice, a blasphemer, an atheist. In a word, in him might be found all the vices contrary to honour, nature, religion, and society; the truth of which he evinced with his latest breath; for he died in the flower of his age, in a common brothel, perfectly corrupted in his debaucheries; and expired with a glass in his hand, cursing and denying God.

A SIMPLE TALE *of* LOVE.

(Continued from Page 243.)

"Love's the most generous passion of the mind,
The softest refuge innocence can find:
The safe director of unguided youth,
Fraught with kind wishes, and secur'd by truth;
The cordial drop Heav'n in our cup has thrown,
To make the nauseous draught of life go down."

ROCHESTER.

SURELY, of all other passions, love affords us the most exquisite delight; but so near is the alliance between pleasure and pain, that the transition is almost imperceptible, and when the one is extreme, the other is naturally the same. Here, then, the danger is evident; but who would not run every risk to bask in the sunshine of an angel's smiles? Absorbed in the endless pursuits of commerce, or the more manly exercise of rural sports, people are very apt to ridicule this passion, as the off-

spring of effeminacy, and stigmatize its votaries with various contemptuous epithets; yet methinks their ill-judged satire reflects the greater disgrace on themselves, and proves them to be some of those insipid creatures, those inanimate beings, whose appearance in society is neither *useful* nor *ornamental*. If, however, prudence and virtue are not the joint supporters of love, happiness will never be its companion. The woodbine, that twines its slender osiers around the trunk of the umbrageous oak, puts forth its blossoms in safety, and beautifies its supporter; but when the stately tree yields to the sounding axe of the woodman, and the growth of an hundred years lies prostrate on the ground, the fragrant plant participates its fate, and perishes in the ruin. Thus moralizing, Henry proceeded to the clift, at the appointed hour, and found Maria already seated on her favourite rock, contemplating the grandeur of the wide-extended ocean. As he approached her, a modest blush betrayed the emotions of her heart; and, after the first salutation, she thus addressed him. "Believe me, my good friend, it was with difficulty I prevailed on myself to fulfil my last evening's promise; there is, in this proceeding, somewhat so very like indelicacy, that I almost fear you have already condemned my punctuality." "Dearest Maria, (interrupted Henry) talk not thus unkindly. The first impressions of your beauty on my soul, have been rendered indelible by your subsequent ingenuous conduct; Oh pursue, I beseech you, the same open path through life; averse to the intricate journey of the prude and coquette, where the thorns of deceit thicken as they go, and not a flower blossoms to cheer the tedious way; short as the period of my captivity has been, it already appears a very age of bliss.

> "A change so swift, what heart did ever feel?
> It rush'd upon me like a mighty stream,
> And bore me, in a moment, from the shore!
> I've lov'd myself away in one short hour;
> Already I am gone an age of passion."
>
> DRYDEN.

"An excellent rhapsody, truly (said Maria); who would ever have imagined that the easy grace of modern gallantry would have so long resisted the rust of country retirement? but as Cowper says 'the town has ting'd the country." "Nay, jest not, (replied Henry), for you must be well aware that gallantry has no influence over my assertions. They are the pure offspring of love; as unadorned by fashionable refinement, as they are unpolluted by fashionable insincerity!!" Here their conversation was suddenly interrupted by the report of a gun, and on turning round they beheld a wounded dove fluttering across

across the heath. Henry ran to its assistance, which the rustic that had shot it perceiving, sheepishly retired without claiming his prize; in fact, he had no right to it, for it proved to be one of Henry's tame doves that frequently made short excursions in the neighbouring groves; the bird had merely received a slight wound in the pinion, and its apparent distress was more the effect of terror than of any material injury. Maria greatly lamented the poor dove's misfortune, and begging to become its nurse, gently pressed the trembling sufferer to her bosom. "Ah fair and beautiful physician! (exclaimed Henry) would to Heaven I were a wounded dove thus to obtain thy compassionate caresses; but will not the charming Maria pity *my* sufferings also? Will she wound, and deny a remedy? Distressing thought! it must not, cannot be. No, no; those tears of pity that sparkle in thy blue eyes, Maria, shall cool my scorching flame, and invigorate my very soul: they fall like the dew of heaven on the drooping flowers; and that ambrosial sigh, which swells thy snowy bosom, shall waft my weather-beaten bark to the haven of happiness." "Ah! dear Henry, (said the tender-hearted maid) why should I any longer conceal my real sentiments? there is something so encouraging in your open confessions, that I am resolved to rise superior to the timidity of my sex, and imitate your candour. From the moment I first beheld you as the preserver of my father, I felt something more than gratitude struggling in my soul; some strange sensation invaded my bosom, and robbed it of its wonted serenity. 'Twas love, Henry! and what will not love effect? In vain were my endeavours to banish the bold intruder; in vain I called reason to my aid. Is he not (thought I) a poor cottager? surely then 'tis madness to cherish this foolish regard! Oh, unavailing argument! Henry, I was sure, could not be really a cottager. His air, his expression, his dignity, his independent spirit, all conspired to strengthen my conviction; and the more I pondered on these circumstances, the more incapable I found myself of resisting the progress of my passion. Ah! kind and affectionate Henry! you have been long buffeted by the tempests of adverse fortune; and your care-tossed bark has long needed a secure port; here then, on this bosom let it fix its anchor, and whilst love and virtue are its inmates, no worldly motives, I trust, will ever again induce you to unfurl the adventurous canvas!!!"

It requires a far abler pen than mine to describe Henry's raptures. He blessed her a thousand times as a guardian angel, that had preserved him from the precipice of destruction, and conducted his erring steps to the path of heavenly felicity. "Gracious providence! (said he) how evident is thy goodness in all thy dispensations; and how blind are mortals not to see that "whatever is, is right!" Now am I indeed superlatively

perlatively happy. Every word that came from those angel-lips was balm to the rankling wound; her voice was the very music of love."

"Oh! it came o'er my ear like a sweet sound
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing and giving odours."

SHAKESPEAR.

Employed in such interesting conversation, they again wandered to the vale, where, after tenderly embracing each other, and promising to meet daily, they parted, mutually delighted with the events of the day.

IN IMITATION OF ANACREON.

HOW long must I a victim prove,
Submissive at the shrine of love!
How long arouse the dormant lyre
To plaintive songs of soft desire!
In martial notes, I fain would tell
How NELSON conquer'd ere he fell!
Or in pathetic numbers mourn
For virtues never to return;
Such as in Chatham's offspring shone;
The bright support of freedom's throne.
But vain my frail endeavours prove
To drown the melting tones of love;
Vain are my bold pursuits of fame,
Still sounds my golden lyre the same.
But why of adverse fate complain,
Since Anna loves the pleasing strain!
Whilst *her* sweet smiles my labours crown
What care I for the world's renown!
Her smiles, in spite of fate's decree,
Are more than wealth or fame to me.

(To be continued.)

A WOMAN *to be* LET.

THERE is a custom, which most likely is peculiar to a small district in the western part of Cumberland. A few days ago, a gentleman from the neighbourhood of Whitehaven, calling upon a person at his house at Ulpha, was informed that he was gone to church! there was "*a woman to be let!*" On enquiry as to the meaning of this singular expression, it was thus

thus explained: When any *single woman*, belonging to the parish, has the misfortune to prove *with child*, a meeting of the parishioners is called, for the purpose of providing her a maintenance in some family, at so much per week, from that time to a limited time after delivery; and this meeting (to give it the greater sanction) is uniformly holden in the church; where the *lowest* bidder has the *bargain!*—And, on such occasions, previous notice is given, that on such a day there will be "*a woman to be let.*"

Daring Enterprise for the Surprise of Fescamp.

DURING the war which Henry the Fourth of France maintained against the league, when he was king of Navarre, many small towns and even citadels were surprised by very extraordinary means. Amongst others, the following surprising achievement, for fidelity in the adherents, as well as for the vigour and boldness of the adventure, deserves particularly to be recorded.

The manner in which Fescamp was surprised is so remarkable, that it deserves a particular recital. When the fort was taken from the league by the duke de Biron, in the garrison that was turned out of it was a gentleman called Bois-Rose, a man of sense and courage, who, making an exact observation of the place he had left, and having concerted his scheme, contrived to get two soldiers, whom he had bound to his interest, to be received into the new garrison. That side of the fort next the sea is a perpendicular rock, 600 feet high, the bottom of which, for about the height of twelve feet, is continually washed by the sea, except four or five days in the year, during the utmost recess of the sea, when for the space of three or four hours, it leaves fifteen or twenty fathoms of dry sand at the foot of the rock. Bois-Rose, who found it impossible, by any other way, to surprise a garrison who guarded with great care a place lately taken, did not doubt of accomplishing his design, if he could enter by that side which was thought inaccessible; this he endeavoured by the following contrivance to perform:—

He had agreed upon a signal with the two soldiers whom he had corrupted, and one of them waited continually for it on the top of the rock, where he posted himself during the whole time it was low water. Boise-Rose, taking the opportunity of a very dark night, came with 50 resolute men, in two large boats, to the foot of the rock. He had provided himself with a thick cable, equal in length to the height of the rock, and tying knots at equal distances, run short sticks through to support them as they climbed. The soldier whom he had gained,

having

having waited six months for the signal, no sooner perceived it, than he let down a cord from the top of the precipice, to which those below fastened the cable, by which means it was wound up to the top, and made fast to an opening in the battlement, with a strong crow run through an iron staple, made for that purpose. Bois-Rose, giving the lead to one of the serjeants, whose courage he was well convinced of, ordered the 50 soldiers to mount the ladder in the same manner, one after another, with their weapons tied round their waists, himself bringing up the rear, to take away all hope of returning, which indeed soon became impossible, for, before they had ascended half-way, the sea, rising more than six feet, carried off their boats, and set their cable a floating.

The necessity of withdrawing from a difficult enterprise is not always a security against fear, when the danger appears almost inevitable. If the mind represents to itself these 50 men suspended between heaven and earth, in the midst of darkness, trusting their safety to a machine so insecure, that the least want of caution, the treachery of a mercenary soldier, or the slightest fear, might precipitate them into the abyss of the sea, or dash them against the rocks; add to this, the noise of the waves, the height of the rock, their weariness and exhausted spirits; it will not appear surprising that the boldest amongst them trembled, as in effect he who was foremost did; this serjeant telling the next man he could mount no higher, and that his heart failed him. Bois-Rose, to whom this discourse passed from mouth to mouth, and who perceived the truth of it by their advancing no farther, crept over the bodies of those that were before him, advising each to keep firm, and got up to the foremost, whose spirits he at first endeavoured to animate; but finding that gentleness would not prevail, he obliged him to mount, by pricking him in the back with his poignard, and doubtless, if he had not obeyed him, would have precipitated him into the sea. At length, with incredible labour and fatigue, the whole troop got to the top of the rock, a little before the break of day, and were introduced by the two soldiers into the castle, which they completely surprised and gained possession of.

Description of Mr. Alexander Wilson's new Patent for certain Improvements applicable to Shot-belts, Powder-flasks, and Fire-Arms of all Sorts.

THE utility of this invention may be thus described: the advantages to be derived from the improved breeching or plugs are, that they have an interior metal touch-hole, placed

in a peculiar manner behind the centre of the charge, projecting into the chamber in the form of a cone, and thereby preventing the shot from lodging, so as to make the gun miss or hang fire; the touch-hole also communicates with the powder in the pan through the anti-chamber, which is so constructed, that in damp weather the gun cannot hang or miss fire. The inside of the breeching which contains the charge is nearly of the shape of an egg, and so constructed as to permit the powder to remain always loose. It is easier cleaned, and has the advantage of lighting the powder much quicker, and in a more perfect manner, than any breeching heretofore used. The locks of a double gun are nearer together, which renders it more convenient to cock the left lock. The exterior part of the breeching being sloped in an obtuse angular direction, conducts the eye quicker to the object, and makes the priming in the pan tend more to the anti-chamber. Guns on this principle are said to be stronger than others: they will throw the shot more regular, with greater velocity, and are not so liable to loose their shooting.

The jaws of the cock hold the flint in an oblique direction, which gives it more friction, increases the quantity of fire, and throws the fire close up to the touch-hole. The web of the pan is rounded, which prevents the powder from lodging, so as to disjoint the hammers. The pan is easier cleaned, the priming always kept dry, and the pan not liable to lose it. The rest for rifles, which does not exceed two inches in length, and one ounce in weight, may be used standing or in any other position. A very heavy gun may be elevated or depressed with one hand, at pleasure, and at the same time kept perfectly steady.

The head of the shot-belt, which is so constructed as to contain various quantities of shot, is filled with accuracy, without loss of time or hazard of spilling, and always contains a charge, as occasion may require, ready to load with. This improvement on the shot-belt is equally applicable to the powder-flask.

Observations by the Patentee.

THESE guns have a triple advantage, viz. the breeching, locks, and rest. In loading they prime themselves, owing to the close connection of the touch-hole with the anti-chamber, which is an advantage very superior to the guns on the old principle, they being made with wide exterior touch-holes, which must evidently tend to the diminution of the strength of the charge. The powder-flask is made to contain the same quantity of powder as the chamber of the gun, which consequently brings the powder into contact with the wadding or shot,

shot, and prevents the air from lodging so as to diminish the effect of the powder. In loading a double gun on the old principle, pellets of shot are apt to fall into the cylinder hole of the breech of the unloaded barrel, and stop the communication between the powder in the pan and the charge. Double guns, according to Mr. Wilson's invention, are entirely prevented from this inconvenience, by having the interior touch-hole elevated in the bottom of the chamber in a conical form, which prevents the pellets from lodging on it.

Copy of an Inscription on an elegant Monumental Stone, erected in the Church at Wilton, near Taunton.

SACRED to the memory of
SIR BENJAMIN HAMMET, KNIGHT.
Late an alderman of the city of London, and in four
successive parliaments
One of the representatives of the town of Taunton,
Who departed this life, on the 22d July, 1800,
Aged 64 years.
He was blessed by nature with excellent talents,
A clear and comprehensive mind, a fervid imagination, and an
enterprising spirit.
In public life he was equally distinguished by his loyalty
and patriotism; and
To his munificence his native town of Taunton,
to which he was most warmly and
zealously attached,
Owes many of its late and greatest improvements.
In private life he was just and faithful,
generous and liberal to
the poor, and
A firm friend to industrious merit.
He lived honoured and beloved by his family,
And died sincerely regretted by a large
circle of most respectable
friends.
This faint, though affectionate memorial, of the acknowledged
virtues of
A much lamented father,
Is erected as a duteous and grateful tribute,
By his ELDEST SON.

COMMON SNIPE.

THE fields about Rosetta, in Egypt, which had very recently been stripped of the crop of rice, were filled with the common sort of snipes. They were singularly numerous. We understand these birds arrive in Egypt in the beginning of the month of November, and pass their whole winter there. So we are informed in Sonnini's Travels in Egypt.

TIT FOR TAT.

THE celebrated Admiral Coligny, in the reign of Charles IX. sent a colony of hugonots to America, being desirous of establishing the protestant religion in that country, as well as the Spaniards had established their's. The Spaniard destroyed the country, and hung up all the French they found in the place upon trees, with labels affixed to the breast of each, importing that they had been hanged, not as Frenchmen, but as heretics.

Some time afterwards, one Chevalier de Gourges, having put himself at the head of a number of pirates, to endeavour to recover Florida, made himself master of a small Spanish fort, and in his turn hung up all the prisoners, taking care to affix a writing to each, signifying that they had not been hanged as Spaniards, but as robbers and infidels.

Answer, by Triangularius, at Evershot School-house, to the Question inserted August 26.

FIRST to compleat the base of the △, say, as 3,5 : 4 :: 5.5 : 6 28 feet, then 100+6,28=106,28 feet, or the whole base,, which now constitutes a right angled △, and per trig. the ∠ at the base is found =41° 12′ which taken from 90° leaves 48° 48′ =the ∠ at the top of the object; then say as 48° 48′ : 106,28 feet :: 41°12′ : 93 feet, the height of the tower; but I presume the proposer's method is as follows, which is very short and easy, and will answer for all questions of a similar nature, and may sometimes be of service to the land-surveyor, &c. when without an instrument: Thus say, as 4 feet, the distance of the poles : 3,5 feet, the difference of the poles in height :: 96 feet, the distance to the tower's base, 84 feet, consequently 84+9 feet, the pole's height next the object=93 feet, as above, the altitude of the tower required.

☞ The same answer has been received from W. Giles, a pupil in Mr. Chivers's school at St. Austell.

Answer, by H. Glasson, of Praze, to T. Rutger's Charade, inserted January 27.

INGENIOUS youths, who're fond of mystic lore,
Thetrick you mean is STRATAGEM I'm sure.

☞ We have received the like answer from J. T. P. Codd, of Dean Prior; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; S. Moore, of Horswell House; T. Whicker, of Exeter; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; and Adrianus.

Answer, by H. Stoneman, of Exeter, to Primrose's Enigma, inserted February 3.

CONTENTMENT surely ne'er can rest
Within a proud oppressor's breast.

☞ We have received a similar answer from H. Glasson, of Praze; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; William Varcoe, of Mevagissey; J. Lewis, of Poole; R. Trewavas, of Mousehole; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; J. T. J. Day, of Winborne; S. Moore, of Horswell House; T Coumbe, of St. German's; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; W. R. jun. of Yealmpton; W. Lawrence, and Corporal Nimnis, of St. Agnes; G. Coulman, of Broadhempston; and W. Cross, of Bristol.

Answer, by J. Waldron, of Lyme Regis, to W. Bickham's Charade, inserted Feb. 3.

YOUR lines, kind Sir, will clear unfold,
An EAR-WIG which you may behold.

*** Similar answers have been received from T. Coumbe, of St. German's; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; Adrianus; H. Glasson, of Praze; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; H. Stoneman, of Exeter; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Day, of Winborne; R. Trewavas, of Mousehole; W. R. jun. of Yealmpton; J. Whittle, of Upway; and George Coulman, of Broadpempston.

A CHARADE, *by W. Sparks, of Ufculm.*

MY first is a forcer of metal;
My next is his master I vow;
You quickly this matter might settle,
Especially if you know how:
My whole is a village of beauty,
Near London 'tis certainly true;
I've told you as far as my duty,
So gents. I now bid you adieu.

A REBUS, *by W. D. of Bristol.*

A Christian name, ye bards, first find;
The friend of Pylades bring to mind;
A furious beast, with piercing sight;
A liquid black with which we write;
An ancient poet, first in fame;
One of the muses call by name;
A well-known river far from here;
And last the king of all the air:
The initials plac'd in order true,
My greatest pleasure you will view.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TO FRIENDSHIP.

BLEST friendship hail! source of delight!
In whom the softer powers unite,
Mankind in harmony to blend;
How sweet, to view with placid face,
To mankind's ever-erring race
Thy kindly aid extend.

Thou foremost of the social throng,
To whom all earthly joys belong,
To crown with bliss man's fleeting days;
What blessings do thy gifts extend
To mortals, as they onward bend
Thro' life's perpetual maze.

From brawls, or mercenary strife,
Rescu'd by thee oft gives new life
To those by interest engag'd;
Thus unity and peace serene
In thy fair presence still is seen,
Where late the quarrel rag'd.

How oft is stern affliction's child
Of its unhappy state beguil'd
By thee, hid in some dark unknown,
While mirthful innocence displays,
Some unseen power that crowns his days,
And hails content his own.

Even when life is almost spun,
And man his short career has run,
How pleasing, at the parting breath,
Is thy kind aid, by virtue given,
While hoping thee to find in Heaven
He shuts his eyes in death.

Thou lovely goddess! calm and kind,
O let me be to thee inclin'd!
With ardent zeal my thoughts employ;
Thee will I cherish in my breast,
Then come and be my constant guest,
And crown my life with joy.

Clowance. T. RUTGER.

The Philosopher addressing the Sun in Search of Knowledge.

THOU eye! that distant worlds survey,
O! tell us what thy beams display;
Yea, all the secrets thou hast found
In globes that thee encircle round?
Of what compos'd, and how sustain'd,
Or natives what, and how they're fram'd;

Or

Or how they live, on what exist,
In what they dwell, and how they rest?
Their passions what, and sex declare,
And what their great achievements are?
Their blessings what, in great or small,
Confin'd to some, or free for all?
Say what their laws, and how they're made,
If they are broke, or strict obey'd;
And if their natives all are free,
From sin, pain, death and misery!
Then our requests shall have an end,
And never more to thee ascend!

THE REPLY.

ALAS, vain man! wast thou to know the whole
That I discern in globes that round me roll,
It would make thee appear like filthy dust,
Compar'd to worlds so glorious and august;
Whose peaceful climes in sweet harmonious lays,
Conspire to join in concord, love, and praise!
Therefore raise not thyself, but humbly fall
Before thy Maker, who is Lord of All;
And ask no more of globes, their natives what
And formed how—to thee it matters not,
Their grand employ, their food and raiment too,
Are not to be reveal'd in time to you;
Their dwellings what, and where, and how they rest,
Are things too curious for thee to request;
Or what their passion, sex, or skill to thee,
Or blessings what, though great or small they be;
Neither their laws nor great commands were made,
For thee to know, nor be by thee obey'd.

Ruckinge, Kent. J. FRANCIS.

STELLA.

SOFT on my Stella's snowy breast,
When cank'ring care invades my rest,
I find a peaceful, halcyon nest
To pillow care!
At eve, when busy, bustling day
Has chas'd my mental calm away,
Sweetly my cares I soon allay
With Stella's voice.
O soothest sound, O bosom fair,
With each bright virtue cherish'd there!
Possessing these, need I despair
To be most blest?
Let storms of fate assail in vain,
Let lightnings flash, beat down the rain,
Pleasure shall sweeten all my pain,
For Stella's mine!
Stella! Enraptur'd at the sound,
My soul extends its earthly bound,
It seems to float in bliss profound,
A heav'n around.

M.